

Claims:

Sub A 17
1. In an electronic device that provides an on-line educational course, a method comprising:

5 providing an interactive fill-in-the-blank applet, wherein said applet generates a graphical user interface displaying a text box, a question and instructions to a user to enter an answer to the question in the text box; and
forwarding the applet from the electronic device to a remote client.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said applet provides feedback to the user indicating whether an answer entered by the user is correct.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said applet permits a predetermined number of attempts by the user to enter a correct answer.

15 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said applet automatically provides a correct answer in the text box after the user surpasses said predetermined number of attempts.

Sub B 17
20 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said applet prevents the user from entering an answer after said predetermined number of attempts.

Sub A 27
6. In an electronic device that provides an on-line educational course, a method comprising:

receiving a request for a Web page at the electronic device from a remote client;
and

25 in response to said receiving step, sending a Web page containing a question and a fill-in-the-blank applet embedded therein to the remote client, wherein said applet generates a graphical user interface (GUI) including instructions to a user to enter an answer to the question provided by said Web page.

30 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said Web page comprises a page of an on-line educational course.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said Web page includes an applet tag instructing a browser to execute instructions for running the fill-in-the-blank applet.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the fill-in-the-blank applet includes a definition file
5 defining a correct answer to the question.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said definition file is separate from a source code for said Web page to prevent a user from obtaining the correct answer by viewing the source code.

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Sub 1837
11. A computer-readable medium for use in an electronic device that provides an on-line educational course, comprising
instructions for running a fill-in-the-blank applet for displaying a question and a text box to a user, wherein the user can enter an answer to the question in the text box.

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12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the instructions are executable on a virtual machine.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the instructions are stored on
20 a server and downloaded to a local processor of the user.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the medium includes hypertext markup language (HTML) code to reference the applet.

25 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the HTML code includes the question.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising a definition file indicating a correct answer for said question, said definition file being separate from the
30 HTML code to prevent the user from obtaining the correct answer by looking at the HTML code.

Sub A 47

17. An electronic device for providing an on-line educational course comprising
a processor;
a display screen; and
memory including a Web page having an interactive fill-in-the-blank applet
embedded therein,
wherein said processor executes said fill-in-the-blank applet to generate a
graphical user interface on said display screen, said graphical user interface displaying a
question, a text box and instructions to a user to enter an answer to the question in said
text box.
18. The electronic device of claim 17, further comprising a browser for locating and
displaying said Web page.
19. The electronic device of claim 18, further comprising a network connection for
connecting said electronic device to a computer network.
20. The electronic device of claim 17, further comprising input media to allow the user
to enter said answer.

1. **Introduction**
 2. **Background**
 3. **Methodology**
 4. **Results**
 5. **Discussion**
 6. **Conclusion**
 7. **References**
 8. **Appendix**
 9. **Figure 1**
 10. **Figure 2**
 11. **Figure 3**
 12. **Figure 4**
 13. **Figure 5**
 14. **Figure 6**
 15. **Figure 7**
 16. **Figure 8**
 17. **Figure 9**
 18. **Figure 10**
 19. **Figure 11**
 20. **Figure 12**
 21. **Figure 13**
 22. **Figure 14**
 23. **Figure 15**
 24. **Figure 16**
 25. **Figure 17**
 26. **Figure 18**
 27. **Figure 19**
 28. **Figure 20**
 29. **Figure 21**
 30. **Figure 22**
 31. **Figure 23**
 32. **Figure 24**
 33. **Figure 25**
 34. **Figure 26**
 35. **Figure 27**
 36. **Figure 28**
 37. **Figure 29**
 38. **Figure 30**
 39. **Figure 31**
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 99. **Figure 91**
 100. **Figure 92**
 101. **Figure 93**
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 212. **Figure 204**
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 214. **Figure 206**
 215. **Figure 207**
 216. **Figure 208**
 217. **Figure 209**